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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

### ENGLISH DOINGS

*The Nurses' Registration Act.*—The British Health Minister, Dr. Addison, introduced the Government Bill for the state registration of nurses into the House of Commons, on November 6, last. We await with intense interest the concluding events in its course.

*Three Cheers for Councillor Kent.*—Quite the most refreshing bit of English news is that telling of the election of Beatrice Kent, as a municipal reform candidate in the borough of St. Pancras, London. Miss Kent, as many Americans know, is and has long been distinguished among English nurses for her splendid altruistic and civic spirit. A woman of independent means and fine culture, she has for some years devoted herself to unpaid labors in advancing her profession. As municipal councillor she will, we know, have a congenial and fruitful career. We owe this to "Votes for Women," and in that battle also Miss Kent was steadfast and true.

*The Nurses' Trade Union.*—This youngest child of the times made its appearance at a crowded and most successful, enthusiastic meeting in London in late October. An immense gathering of nurses was there, presided over by Miss MacCallum, a private duty nurse. The objects of the association were read by a legal adviser. These seem important enough to quote in full, in order to show the likeness to and the departure from, the older conventional societies.

(1) To promote and protect the profession of Trained Nurses. (2) To promote State Registration of all Trained Nurses. (3) To establish an Employment Agency and act as Agent for members. (4) To secure a minimum rate of remuneration and maximum working hours. (5) To provide benefits for members when totally incapacitated. (6) To regulate the relationships between Trained Nurses and Employers. (7) To secure unity of action by organization or otherwise, in order to maintain the position and status of Trained Nurses. (8) To abolish all abuses detrimental to their welfare and economic independence. (9) To promote industrial peace and progress by amicable means, but when difficulties arise to obtain an equitable settlement. (10) To accumulate from the contributions of the members funds adequate for the protection of their professional interests and provision of the benefits specified. (11) To provide legal assistance to members so far as the law allows. (12) To secure, or assist in

securing, legislation for the protection of the Association's interests. (13) To provide fire and other insurance and to make small loans to members for special training, as provided by the rules. (14) To provide clubs, hotels and residential flats for members at special rates. (15) To provide beds in hospitals, nursing homes and sanatoria for nurses. (16) To arrange for medical and dental advice. (17) To provide a sick and accident fund. (18) To provide (when the funds of the Association permit), a scheme for the establishment of annuities. (19) To take any lawful action the Council (as the Governing Body), may deem advisable to protect and advance the interests of the members of the Association.

The meeting gave rise to animated and interesting discussion of a most outspoken type, well punctuated by the free and fresh cries of "Shame"; "That's not true"; "We won't sign the serf clause"; "We'll starve first," etc., which make English meetings so much more interesting than any others. An important point was made by Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the R. B. N. A., when she said:

As to the question of whether a trade union should or should not be formed, that was settled in March, 1916, for when the employers in any body of workers wish to form a trade union they form a Limited Liability Company. Such a company was formed in the profession, (The College of Nursing.—Ed.), and the natural sequence to it, sooner or later, is a trade union in the rank and file. The one is called forth by the other.

*Nursing in Prisons.*—The Royal British Nurses' Association, represented by Beatrice Kent (who has been a pioneer in urging the entrance of nurses into prisons), conducted a deputation to the Home Secretary last autumn, which had the result of getting five fully trained nurses placed on duty in Holloway Prison, to make the experiment of a long desired innovation,—the oversight and care of women prisoners by nurses. One gave her time to venereal cases; one to mental defectives; one to surgical cases; one to midwifery, and one to the skin cases. The experiment promises the most gratifying results, and will no doubt extend, as English nurses wish it to do, to preventive or health nursing among all prisoners. In how many years will our country follow this example?

*Next Year's Meetings of the International Executive.*—Two members, so far, of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses have promised to come to Atlanta next spring. They are Charlotte Munck, of Copenhagen, representing the Danish Council of Nurses, and Margaret Breay, true and tried charter member and treasurer, representing the Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. The Executive Committee has only nine members. We hope to hear from more.